

HOMES & GARDENS[®]

MAY 2006 £3.20

IN THE PINK

FABULOUS NEW LOOKS WITH THIS
SUMMER'S HOTTEST COLOUR

STYLISH HOMES

Come inside to
be inspired

GARDEN SPECIAL

28 pages of real
gardens, advice
and chic ideas

THE BEST

Living room
storage, smart
tableware,
small-scale
wallpapers

DECORATING SOLUTIONS

Escape to a sanctuary bedroom
Create an attic bathroom

WHAT COULD YOUR DESIGNS NEVER BE COMPLETE WITHOUT?

Furniture. We both tend to suggest different furniture designs and suppliers but we do both like the **Chester sofa**, £2,000, from Emperor, 0800 980 3134; emperorfurniture.co.uk. It is simple, long-lasting, contemporary and, most importantly, useful. We also love water – it adds movement and serenity, and provokes curiosity.



WHAT WOULD YOU RECOMMEND EVERY GARDENER TO GROW?

A limited number of species in herbaceous beds, but in great quantity. For example, plant five different varieties of a plant in groups of ten in order to create the greatest impact in a scheme.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE PLANTS?

For trees, the *Catalpa bignonioides* is a thing of awesome scale with exquisite scented flowers set among large leaves and bean-like seed pods, right. *Tellima grandiflora* is a flower of beauty and looks great planted in broad swathes, while the shrub *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle' is a true show-off with huge white globes of flowers.



TRADE SECRETS

Philip Nixon



We ask the garden designers what inspires them, what niggles them and what they can't live without

WHICH GARDENS ARE IRRESISTIBLE?

We both love the scale and simplicity of the William Kent-designed garden, left, at Rousham, near Bicester. There are two distinct areas: a formal garden by the river bank, and a walled garden which is simple but lovely.



WHAT MOST INSPIRES YOU?

We were particularly inspired by the new Ben Pimlott building, left, at Goldsmiths College by architect Will Alsop, with its amazing squiggle on the roof. It shows a sense of daring and fun, and highlights the importance of creating balance through contrast.



WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT GARDENING PASSION?

Doing a garden for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show is all-consuming, and this year's design, above, is no exception. We run separate businesses but work together on show gardens and larger projects to help spread the load.



WHO IS YOUR CURRENT FAVOURITE SUPPLIER?

For big structural trees and hedging, we both use Folia, (01920) 438800; folia-europe.com, all the time. Its plants can only be described as top-notch. And, recently, we have bought some stone direct from a supplier in India.

PICTURE RESEARCH STELLA HOWICK. PHOTOGRAPHS PHILIP NIXON, NIXON/BARNETT CHELSEA 2006, MARIANNE MAJERUS GARDEN IMAGES